

They are all in the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Chambers, your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Witek, what you do if you can't pay your property taxes for a long enough time, you asked where do you go, well, you go out there among the other homeless. But I saw where the "Repelicans" and some others in Congress are talking about a subsidy for homeowners. If you are going to sell your house and you get less for it than what you paid, then they are going to try to make up the difference. That is a subsidy, Senator Witek. When are we going to stop asking other people to subsidize these people who buy these houses and cannot afford them. Here is the point that I am trying to get at. Everybody is receiving from the government. Nobody pays as much into the government as they receive. Nebraska, as a little peanut-head state, when it comes to paying in taxes to the federal government, withdraws money as though it's a huge walnut in terms of what they get back. Nebraska, as a state, gets back much more from the federal government than this whole state and all its people pay into the federal government. So when the money is coming in, people like that and they don't complain. When it comes to the taxes being paid to this state treasury, Omaha does not take as much out of the treasury as Omaha pays into the treasury. So people in Omaha are subsidizing the remainder of the state. That's the way it always is. Taxation, in a sense, and it's a very great stretch, represents a distribution or even a redistribution of the resources, I don't say the wealth, I say resources, because taxes are paid by people who are not wealthy. But their resources are taken and turned over to somebody else or some other interest. Senator Witek, if you knew the actual dollar amount, not just you, if we knew the actual dollar amount of benefits, subsidies, and tax breaks that the federal government is giving to large corporations, we would join the militias, and instead of the people saying the British are coming, they'd say Witek and Chambers are coming, and they mean business. They finally have opened their eyes as to how this government is gouging them and giving it to the wealthy, and it is time for a change. But, Senator Witek, that change is not going to come. The big shots will continue to get all of the benefits. When cuts are to be made, when pain is to be suffered, the poor and the weak will suffer that pain, even though the amount extracted from them is a relatively small portion of the government's overall budget.